## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application: Alan Smith, et al.

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Attorney Docket No.: 3174.00017

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents Mail Stop P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the above-captioned patent application prior to examination on the merits, consistent with the instructions found attached hereto: